



Au pairs at work in Australia: temporary migration, social reproduction and the future of work

A/Prof Robyn Mayes, New Social Inequalities and the Future of Work, UQ, Brisbane June 19-20



“The au pair will be given the opportunity to **explore another culture** and the **possibility to study** while being placed in the **protective** environment of a host family abroad. Host families inviting an au pair to their home are expected to **share their culture** with the au pair and show interest in the culture and **cultural background** of the au pair.

In exchange for the **benefits and opportunities** provided by the host family, the au pair is expected to carry out a **specified amount of light household duties and childcare.**”

(What is an au pair?, <https://www.iapa.org/au-pairs/>, accessed June 10, bolding in original)

CAAPA (Cultural Au Pair in
Australia Association)

Trade association formed 2012
“with the purpose of protecting
and developing the Au pair
experience as a rewarding cultural
exchange programme”
(<http://www.capaa.com.au/>)



Pilot Au Pair Visa Program Proposal

**Addressing Australia's child care crisis while improving care
quality and boosting the economy**

Submission to the Department of Immigration & Border Protection

August 2017

An international Au Pair is defined as a **person from another country whose primary role is to assist their allocated family with child care and light domestic duties**. The Au Pair receives **board and pocket money** and participates in a cultural exchange that broadens their life experience and that of their host families.

Most Au Pairs are aged 18-22 years.

They come to Australia primarily for three reasons: cultural exchange, the opportunity to gain international experience caring for children, and to improve their English.

Au Pairs generally care for a family's children for 20-40 hours per week.

(CAPAA, Pilot Au Pair Visa Program Proposal, 2017, p6. available from <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Visasupport/Documents/visa-simplification-submissions/cultural-au-pair-in-australia-association.pdf>, accessed June 18)

“The Working Holiday Maker program allows young adults (18 to 30) from eligible partner countries to work in Australia while having an extended holiday. Work in Australia must not be the main purpose of the visa holder’s visit. The Working Holiday Maker program includes the Working Holiday (subclass 417) and Work and Holiday (subclass 462) visas” (<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/lega/lega/form/immi-faqs/what-is-the-working-holiday-maker-program>)

A thriving industry: au pair agencies


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Welcome to Teulu Au Pair

Teulu Au Pair ("tay-lee") provides a **quality, professional and personalised** au pair placement service to Brisbane and greater Queensland families.

Teulu Au Pair provides
Truly **personalised** service - Au Pair tailored **inductions** - **Ongoing** au pair services reviews



Teulu (tay-lee) is Welsh for family

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Find flexible childcare

Au Pair Program guidelines

Flexible Pocket Money Experience Free time Driving Babies **Cooking** Cleaning English

"Most au pairs are happy to cook a simple meal for the family occasionally, you can teach your au pair some of your family's favored recipes to cook or ask them to help you with meal preparation. Meal planning and main cooking responsibility is generally best left to a parent."

Your au pair can help;

- Wake the children and get them ready for the day.
- Show the kids how to tidy their room and make the bed.
- Prepare breakfast and lunch for the children.
- Clean up breakfast dishes, load/unload the dishwasher.
- Make sure children have books, homework and sports kit in order.
- Take children to/from school, sports, activities, friends by car, on foot or by bus.
- Tasks whilst the children are in school can include light housework, kids laundry, errands and some shopping.
- Prepare after-school snacks and/or simple evening meal.
- Help with homework.
- Initiate play and activities.
- Help children at bath time and help them get ready for bed.

For your au pair

- The opportunity to be treated as a member of the Host Family, take part in daily family life as a 'big sister', experience a new country, become fluent in English.
- Free board and accommodation in a private, furnished bedroom.
- Weekly pocket money, minimum \$170.
- Completion bonus at the end of the 6 month program.
- Two free days per week to explore and catch up with new friends.
- Guidance, support and training from the host family.
- Transportation to/from the Host Family home.
- No sole care for children under 1.
- No sole care overnight.
- Childcare is main role.
- Limited light housework 1-2 hours per day maximum.

Representations of lifestyle: 'Life's better with an Au Pair'

"Hosting an au pair in your family puts *you* in control.

There is no need to rush back from work as there is no 'closing time'. If your child is sick, your care can simply continue as usual. If you have children in school and little ones at home, your au pair can care for both at no extra cost."

(smartaupairs)

"Packages To Enhance Your Lifestyle
Our Au Pairs will help you to create the family lifestyle that you deserve. Less Stress. Less Rush. More Time." (AuPairHouse)

Our experience with au pair agencies had not been great. We witnessed other friends go down the au pair option to be paired with au pairs not suited to their needs and ended up making their life more difficult than before.

On watching this we realised there was a gap in the market for a quality family focused service. Which brings me here. **Teulu** (pronounced "Tay-lee") is a Welsh word for family and given the end game is all about family it just made sense.



Ingrid – Sept Au Pair of the Month (smartaupairs.com)

“Ingrid has really bonded with Sam, my seven year old boy. We are currently holidaying down the South Coast and it seems she is enjoying herself. Each day is filled with activities, jumping pillows, beach and fun with Ingrid, Sam and his little friends who often visit him. **One little boy offered Ingrid his holiday money of \$20 to Ingrid to be his au pair. He held the money up to her and with his big eyes said “please, can you be my au pair for two days”.** It’s no secret that Ingrid has warmed the hearts of the residence of our van park. Ingrid plays with all children with no expectations in returns.

My Sam has autism and has had constant interaction with Ingrid and other children.

Thanks for pairing her to us, she has worked out really well for our family and Sam. She really needs to be acknowledged with an award.”



Place Au Pairs Into Aussie Families

Through our complete process of profiles, interviews and reference checks, Au Pair House places Full Time, Part Time or Demi Au Pairs with families.

(AuPairHouse)



Experience the Au Pair House difference as we provide ongoing support to families and au pairs throughout the entire placement. Our support ensures success with the program for all parties.

